



THIS WEEK IN IRAQ

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Carabinieri training Iraqi Police



Iraqi National Police training with Italian Carabinieri, demonstrate anti-riot policing techniques. Anti-riot policing is one of 15 topics taught in the eight-week Carabinieri training at Camp Dublin, Iraq. Photo by U.S. Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Erica R. Gardner.

CAMP DUBLIN — Italian Maj. Gen. Alessandro Pompegnani, deputy commander, NATO Training Mission – Iraq, and Italian Col. Fabrizio Parrulli, commander of the Italian Carabinieri Team, hosted a media day focusing on Carabinieri technique training for the Iraqi National Police Dec. 5.

The first eight-week training course for 450 Iraqi National Police began Oct. 27.

The participants range from junior to senior level police and the training covers a wide range of policing areas, from counter-insurgency to riot control. The training will assist eight battalions and will run for two years.

The Carabinieri training team is composed of specialized instructors, most from 2nd Mobile Brigade. This unit carries out overseas operations, overseas military assistance and training and provides the bulk of Carabinieri international missions.

“The aim of this training is to create specialized units inside the Iraqi National Police, enabling them to face security issues across the country,” said Parrulli.

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Country's leaders aim to 'put law back in Iraq'

CAMP STRIKER — Throngs of Iraqi key political leaders gathered at the home of Abid Hassan Saloom in Sadr Yusufiyah Dec. 6 to discuss the future of Iraq.

The theme of the meeting was “Put the Law Back in Iraq” and it was attended by a multitude of prominent community leaders, Iraqi Security Forces and Iraqi Army officials. Of note were Dr. Ahmed Chalabi, former leader of the Iraqi National Congress, Sheik Somar, Yusufiyah nahia council president, 4th Iraqi Army Brigade commander Brig. Gen. Ali Jassim Mohammed Hassen Al-Frejee, Sheik Halal Al Hemdawni, as well as representatives

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Citizens, Soldiers work together

FORWARD OPERATING BASE

KALSU — An insurgent safehouse in Arab Jabour was rendered useless, Dec. 4, by two joint direct attack ammunition bombs.

Although dropped by an Air Force F-16 Falcon jet, the operation was a combined effort conducted on the ground by Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, Ga., and members of a Concerned Local Citizens (CLC) group in the area.

The chain of events began Dec. 2, when the CLCs conducted a daylight search of a suspected insurgent base of operations.

The citizens, led by Salah Mubarak, conducted the mission after they experienced a number of attacks around the abandoned building, said Capt. Eric Melloh, from Hunstville, Texas, commander, Company A, 1-30th Inf. Regt.

Tired of the violence, local residents including Mubarak's cousin, who owned the structure, took proactive measures to stop the attacks.

The citizens went to the building to gather intelligence and document anything found with a digital camera

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Students from the Dur-Mandali Primary School for Girls in Balad-Ruz receive supplies from the family of fallen Paratrooper, Spc. Michael Rodriguez. His family said he wrote home about the wonderful kids he had met and loved. Photo by 1st Lt. Scott Marler.

Platoon helps neighborhood

CAMP LIBERTY — Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 32nd Field Artillery Regiment's Civil Military Operations (CMO) Platoon, stopped at the Daklea Market in Baghdad recently to take a census of sorts among the shop owners.

The platoon was documenting all the shop owners in the area. That day they catalogued the last shops. "It's all about sales," said Army 1st Lt. Quinn Robertson, the platoon's leader from Richmond, Va., who sold stocks before joining the Army. "It's all about selling yourself. That's how you talk to them."

Robertson's strong background in the business world and his time as a battery executive officer and battalion intelligence officer have served him well with the platoon, he said, as he helps Iraqis learn how to rebuild their nation.

"It's all about the relationship building," he said after meeting and greeting various Iraqis at the market. "They don't come from the same backgrounds as we do, so we are reintroducing them to the process — the who and where you get the money from to get things done. The way you talk to them goes a long way."

The CMO platoon, created in September, was the brainchild of former Civil-Military Officer, Army 1st Lt. Alex Barnett, who saw its creation as a way to free up combat power, said Lancaster, Pa., native Army 1st Lt. Neal Rice, the battalion's civil military operations officer.

"Before we had the platoon, line platoons were escorting us all over the battlefield," the 27-year-old said.

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Army engineers looking for strong finish on projects



Construction of the Al Harbia pedestrian bridge in Dhi Qar Province continues.

TALLIL — The Adder Area Office of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is hoping to wrap up more than a dozen projects of different sorts before the end of the year.

Navy Cmdr. Mike Lang, officer in charge of the office, said the intent is to end the year "with a strong finish" by closing out a significant number of projects. The office is part of the Corps' Gulf Region South (GRS) district, which serves Iraq's nine southern provinces.

Among the projects being eyed for

completion before year's end are three primary healthcare centers (PHC) in Dhi Qar province. These facilities are among the nearly three dozen PHC's nearing completion across southern Iraq that will provide essential medical services to countless Iraqis each day and also will employ many Iraqis and provide medical training for local health care workers.

One project awaiting turnover is the Al-Warka compact water unit and network in

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